[29th November 1928

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"With reference to clauses (*d*) and (*e*), may I ask the Government the reasons why they do not see their way to cancel this circular which interferes with the judicial discretion of magistrates in awarding punishments for offences by telling those magistrates 'whatever your view of the punishment may be, you shall award imprisonment'?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Because the district magistrate as the supervising magistrate in the district has power to give instructions to the subordinate magistracy."

Alleged complaints against Mr. Venkata Reddi, Sub-Magistrate of Arni.

* 860 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Mr. Venkata Reddi is the Sub-Magistrate of Arni, North Arcot district;

(*b*) how long Mr. Venkata Reddi has been at Arni as Sub-Magistrate;

(*c*) how many applications have been filed by parties for transfer of criminal proceedings from the file of this sub-magistrate during the six months ending with 30th September 1928;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that transfer applications have been filed even in cases which had far advanced and even by parties to whom the proceedings appeared to go favourably;

(*e*) how many applications for transfer have been filed by parties even at the very commencement of criminal cases, during this period;

(*f*) whether the Government are aware that the people of Arni, parties as well as practitioners, have no confidence about getting impartial justice from this officer;

(*g*) whether any representation was made to the District Magistrate, North Arcot, expressing public dissatisfaction and want of confidence in this officer; and

(*h*) whether Government are aware that there have been complaints about this officer from people in other stations where he had previously served as sub-magistrate?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) For about a year.

(*c*) Five applications. The number of cases on his file was 500. One out of the five applications was for transfer to the Court of the Sub-Magistrate of Vellore, on the ground of public convenience. In two of the remaining four cases, the applications were rejected and in the other two, they were allowed.

(*d*) Yes, in one case. In this case, the application was rejected. There have been no applications such as those referred to in the latter part of the question.

(*e*) In three cases applications were made before the commencement of the Proceedings.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) No.

(*h*) There were no such complaints.

29th November 1928],

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Is it a fact that the magistrate has since been transferred to another place ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Notice."

Alleged irregularities in the conduct of a raffle for a motor-car in North Arcot district.

*861 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that a raffle for a motor-car was conducted by one Dinadayalu Mudaliyar, Member, District Board, North Arcot, some time back;

(b) whether the police applied to the Subdivisional Magistrate, Ranipet, to take any steps in the matter ; and, if so, what ; and

(c) what action, if any, he or the District Magistrate took in the matter ?

A.—The Government have no information.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Is it a fact that the motor car raffled really belongs to the President of the District Board, North Arcot, Mr. K. Krishnaswami Nayudu Garu ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Government have no information."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Will the Government call for the information ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Yes, Sir."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Is it a fact that the staff of the District Board of North Arcot sold the tickets and whether other members of the staff were practically compelled to buy the tickets ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Notice, Sir."

Forests

Prohibition of shooting, etc., in the forests of Dharakota estate.

*862 Q.—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the forests reserved under sections 22, 26, 32 in the proprietary forests of Dharakota estate, Ganjam district, have been blocked and demarcated and that with proper cairns ;

(b) whether any Government officer was deputed and whether he submitted a report that the above works have been done ;

(c) whether any officer has been appointed as Forest Settlement Officer to enquire into the rights of ryots, and the insufficiency or otherwise of unreserved forests ;

(d) whether any portion of the forest has been set apart for grazing in conformity with the immemorial rights of the ryots to graze cattle ;

(e) the reason why Government have prohibited shooting in the forests ;

(f) the number of forest cases filed by the Raja in each of the years 1925, 1926 and 1927 ; and